Media Release

COMFORTDELGRO

COMFORTDELGRO TURNS IN FULL-YEAR REVENUE OF $3.9 BILLION

- ***Full year Group revenue increased by 2.6% to $3.9 billion, buoyed by contributions from acquisitions made in 2018. If not for a negative foreign currency effect of $73.7 million, Group revenue would have increased by 4.6% to $4.0 billion.***
- ***Group operating costs increased by 3.7% to $3.5 billion due in part to the expansion in business but also due to impairment of the taxi business.***
- ***Operating profit correspondingly fell by 5.2% to $415.8 million.***
- ***Net profit attributable to shareholders decreased by 12.6% to $265.1 million.***

Singapore, 14 February 2020 – ComfortDelGro today announced its audited results for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Highlights:

	Full Year 31 Dec 2019	**Full Year 31 Dec 2018**	**Change**
		$m	%
Revenue	3,905.7	3,805.2	2.6
Operating Profit	415.8	438.8	-5.2
Net Profit Attributable to Shareholders	265.1	303.3	-12.6
EBITDA	868.8	832.0	4.4
EPS – cents	12.24	14.01	-12.6

Note: All figures denominated in Singapore dollars

Group

ComfortDelGro Corporation's full-year revenue grew by 2.6% or $100.5 million to $3.9 billion despite an increasingly competitive environment. New acquisitions contributed $154.2 million to that increase while $20.0 million came from existing businesses. This was unfortunately partially offset by an unfavourable negative foreign currency effect of $73.7 million.

Group operating costs increased by 3.7% or $123.5 million to $3.5 billion in line with the expanded operations and a provision for impairment in the taxi business. There was also depreciation and amortisation charges from the adoption of SFRS(I)16 and provision for impairment in the taxi business.

Correspondingly, Group operating profit fell by 5.2% or $23.0 million to $415.8 million, exacerbated by a negative foreign currency effect of $7.4 million.

Full-year net profit attributable to shareholders fell by 12.6% or $38.2 million to $265.1 million.

ComfortDelGro Managing Director/Group CEO, Mr Yang Ban Seng, said: “Having just emerged from a year of consolidation and reorganisation, we are now faced with new challenges brought on by the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak that first started in Wuhan, China. Our taxi, driving centre and bus station operations in China have been hit amidst measures to try and contain the spread. In Singapore, we have started seeing some negative impact on our taxi operations as tourist arrivals fall and residents avoid crowded places. I think things will get worse before they get better.”

Operations Review

- Public Transport Services

At Group level, full-year revenue from the public transport services business grew by 6.2% or $168.1 million to $2.88 billion, with $139.0 million of that increase coming from the 2018 and 2019 acquisitions in Australia. Revenue was also buoyed by higher fees earned with higher mileage operated, better performance from bus services as well as higher fares and ridership from rail services.

- Taxi

At Group level, full-year revenue for the taxi business fell by 8.0% or $57.9 million to $668.6 million due to strong competition which resulted in a reduction in operating fleet.

- Inspection and Testing Services

Revenue from the Group’s inspection and testing services business decreased by 6.1% or $6.7 million to $103.8 million in the absence of the net gain on the surrender of lease of property at Teban Gardens in Singapore in 2018.

Dividend

A final tax-exempt one-tier dividend of 5.29 cents per share has been proposed. Together with the interim tax-exempt one-tier dividend of 4.5 cents paid earlier, the total dividend for 2019 will be 9.79 cents per share or a payout ratio of 80% if the final dividend is approved by shareholders at the Annual General Meeting on 24 April 2020.

Outlook

The COVID-19 outbreak broke out in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and quickly spread internationally despite efforts to contain it. How the outbreak will turn out is currently unclear and a prolonged outbreak is anticipated. COVID-19 and measures to fight it will result in the economic slowdown of affected countries. Our taxi, public transport and transport related businesses are witnessing lower ridership and volumes as we face significant operational challenges.

Notwithstanding the current uncertainties, the Group maintains its long-term focus on the mobility strategy and continues to transform and build capabilities.

Background

ComfortDelGro is one of the world’s largest land transport companies with a total fleet size of over 41,600 buses, taxis and rental vehicles. We also run 83km of light and heavy rail networks in Singapore. Our global operations span seven countries – Singapore, Australia, China, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Vietnam and Malaysia.